

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 1982

JESSE M. KNOWLES
CHAIRMAN

400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 26, 1982

AGENDA

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Roll Call.	1
2. Request from Anthony Guarisco for a permit to dredge clam shells from Lake Palourde.	1
3. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 148.5 AHP near Lutchet at Paulina, St. James Parish, Louisiana, by Atlas Construction Co.	6
4. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 134.3 and 135.0 AHP, in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, by Atlas Construction Co.	7
5. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of CS 1941+00 to CS 1840+00 in Plaquemines Parish by Atlas Construction Co., Inc.	7
6. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at the right descending bank, near Boothville, Louisiana, by T. L. James & Co.	8
7. The Five Year Research and Monitoring Program for Seafood Division, Office of Coastal and Marine Resources.	8
8. New law concerning shrimp vessel licenses must be obtained during the month of January.	9
9. Discussion of oyster lease application moratorium.	9
10. Resolution concerning the upcoming spring shrimp season.	11
11. Introduction of Mr. Sid Rusilo, Governor's Task Force.	12
12. Ratify action of the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve in closing Black and Clear Lakes to commercial fishing for an unspecified period of time.	12

AGENDA (Cont'd.)

13.	Right-of-way fees on wildlife management areas.	13
14.	National Wildlife Week, March 14-20, 1982.	14
15.	Mrs. Pendley's explanation of procedures.	16
16.	Marsh Island mineral leases.	16
17.	Final passage of authorization to develop shooting ranges on wildlife management areas.	18
18.	Resolution to rename Marine Laboratory to Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory.	20
19.	Fishermen's Gear Compensation Program.	21
20.	Announcement of dates for Public Hearings and Board Meetings.	23
21.	Authorization of travel expenses for Wildlife Federation Meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana.	24
22.	Update on Toledo Bend situation.	24

MINUTES OF MEETING
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
January 26, 1982

Chairman Jesse M. Knowles, presiding.

Members present:

Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, Chairman
Mr. James C. Farrelly, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, Member
Mr. J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, Member
Mr. George N. Gray, Member
Mr. Charles A. Riggs, Member

Also present: Mr. Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary

* * *

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, on Monday, January 25, 1982, at 2:00 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously that the Commission go into a committee of the whole.

Motion was made by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously that the committee of the whole rise and report progress.

A roll call of members present was taken.

Chairman Knowles announced that Commission Member, Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, resigned from the Commission on December 15, 1981.

Invocation was offered by Commissioner Charles A. Riggs.

Dr. Ted Ford stated that he had a request from Mr. Anthony Guarisco, President of Guarisco Enterprises,

Inc., Morgan City, Louisiana, to dredge for clam shells in Lake Palourde located in the parishes of St. Martin, St. Mary and a small part of Assumption. Mr. Guarisco had dredged there 30 yrs. ago and would like to do so again.

Dr. Ford said he and his staff have reviewed the application and recommended that a permit be issued with an additional eight points amended to the permit. The added restrictions are as follows:

LAKE PALOURDE DREDGING RESTRICTIONS

1. This is a heavy-use recreational area and dredging is to be excluded from an area roughly 1 mile from the shoreline on the western portion of the lake. This one-mile buffer will continue running roughly northerly from the mouth of Bayou Ramous, and from that point on around the eastern portion of the lake there will be no dredging one-half mile from the shoreline (figure attached).
2. There will be no dredging activity during weekends and holidays, nor during any sponsored boat races.
3. The contractor will be responsible for obtaining a 404 Permit from the Corps of Engineers prior to beginning and will also be responsible for knowing and avoiding the numerous pipelines traversing the lake.
4. The permit will be issued for a one-year period and any application for renewal will be evaluated at any time. The contractor is also responsible for maintaining daily dredging reports for quantity by area which can be inspected at any time by department personnel.
5. The contractor will pay the present shell royalty to the Department (cents per cubic yard). This is a royalty on the amount of production.
6. The Department reserves the right to suspend dredging at any time it deems it is necessary.
7. In addition to the above requirements, all other requirements of the standard dredging permit shall be in full force and effect.

8. It is recommended that the dredging equipment be fitted with a Recording Loran-C instrument for maintaining a record of the dredge's position at all times.

* * *

Dr. Ford stated at the last meeting he was requested to compile some figures as to what could be expected in royalties on an annual basis. Approximately \$22,000 to \$25,000 might be expected in royalties from dredging of shell from Lake Palourde.

Dr. Ford said Mr. Bennie Fontenot, Chief, Fish Division, stated Lake Palourde was a highly productive fisheries area and gave the following fisheries statistics for Lake Palourde:

Channel catfish	38.9	per	acre
Flathead catfish	45.1	"	"
Blue catfish	24.5	"	"
Striped mullet	82.8	"	"
Gizzard shad 8" or larger	39.5	"	"
Freshwater drum, carp, and buffalo	29.0	"	"
Blue gill	15.5	"	"

Crappie, sac-au-lait, and largemouth bass populations were low

Total fish populations were 398 lbs. per acre and this is considered high.

Dr. Ford said he has written to the police juries advising them of the proposed request and to provide us with their comments. Dr. Ford presented a petition with 75 names on it opposing the issuance of a permit for shell dredging in Lake Palourde. With the exception of St. Mary Parish, Police Jury, the others were very negative. Dr. Ford said he received 173 communications from the public and of the 173, 171 were opposed to the permit.

Dr. Ford further stated it was their understanding that Lake Palourde is used as an alternate water supply

for Morgan City. It is also utilized for servicing off-shore facilities.

Chairman Knowles asked for comments from the audience and asked Mr. Guarisco to speak first regarding his request.

Mr. Anthony Guarisco, President of Guarisco Enterprises, Inc., Morgan City, Louisiana, stated he has been in the dredging business for some forty years. He had dredged shells in Lake Palourde over thirty years ago along with the Leftwich Company and the Grisafi Dredging Company. He said he thought that most of the people against the operation do not understand the way these shells are taken. He said the shells are sucked from the bottom and no damage is done to the lake. He did not know whether or not this operation would be profitable to him but he proposed to use 1 barge, 1 tugboat and a small dredge to go into the lake and would comply with the restrictions. He said there would be no contamination of the water. There would be no mud or chemicals used to perform this operation. He knew where the suction intake for the water supply was located which would be a mile away. Any pollution from the dredging of shells would be dissipated within 4 or 5 minutes.

Secretary Guidry asked Mr. Guarisco as to how many feet of water would he be dredging in. Mr. Guarisco answered he would be drawing about 4 feet of water. He could not dredge in less than that.

Secretary Guidry asked if there was a layer of sediment on the shell deposit.

Mr. Guarisco said in some places there was some but he would have to go through that to get to the shell deposit. The sediment would go on the dredge--some would stay on the dredge and the rest would go back in the water.

Commissioner Ducote asked Mr. Guarisco how many yards of shells he would be taking from the lake. Mr. Guarisco stated he would have to take approx. 500,000 yds. a year to be profitable and he estimated it would take about two months for him to find out if this venture would be profitable.

Dr. C. R. Brownell, Mayor of Morgan City, made a statement opposing the issuance of the permit to Mr. Guarisco.

Commissioner Gilbert asked Dr. Brownell if he was still opposed to the permit after hearing the eight additional recommendations by Dr. Ford.

Mayor Brownell answered that he was still very much opposed to the permit.

Mr. Charles Savoie, Mayor of Berwick, spoke in behalf of his five councilmen and himself, saying they were opposed to the permit.

Mr. Cedric Lafleur, Mayor pro tem, and member of the City Council, Morgan City, reaffirmed Mayor Brownell's position in opposing the permit.

Mr. Bart Mancuso, Recreation Director of Morgan City, and representing Lake and Park Commission and Recreation Commission of Morgan City, said they were opposed to the permit.

Mr. Victor Basagne, representing Inglewood Investments who have significant properties abutting the lake, stated they were opposed to the permit.

Mr. Aubrey Hamilton, President, Louisiana Bass Club, representing 3,500 members throughout the state, said they were against the permit.

Ms. Skip Watoms, Chairman of the Atchafalaya Delta Tourist Commission, said the Tourist Commission is unanimously opposed to the permit since it would be a threat to the tourist industry since it is a prime tourist attraction.

Mr. Randall Lanctot, Executive Director, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, said they were not in opposition because they haven't made up their minds yet on this issue. He requests the Commission to proceed with extreme caution in evaluating the request and give priority to public interests.

Mr. Jesse Fontenot, businessman, from Morgan City, referred to Mr. Guarisco's statements criticizing the oil industry. He stated spills were cleaned up immediately. He felt there might be chemicals there but

not oil because the lake is kept pretty clean.

Mr. Guarisco stated in rebuttal to those opposed to the permit that his equipment would be brought inshore east of everything about 4 or 5 miles. He pointed out that the group of people in opposition to the permit had no experience in dredging, there is no expert with them, and they were unfair in saying it may or can happen.

Commissioner Riggs stated that there was a similar situation in Calcasieu Lake and one aspect was pointed out that the lake probably could not be duplicated for one billion dollars. It was not economically feasible to do anything to destroy the lake. The benefits from the lake from both commercial and recreation usage is perpetual. It was there for many generations before us and will be there for many generations after we are gone and we should not do anything to alter this situation.

Commissioner Gilbert stated St. Mary Parish Police Jury was in favor of issuing the permit by a vote of 9 to 4. He pointed out that in his area the police jury is the governing authority of the parish and the St. Mary Parish Police Jury has publicly gone on record as being in favor of this request.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, that the application by Mr. Guarisco be rejected and not to grant the permit. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Gray, Mr. Riggs, Mr. Farrelly and Mr. Ducote rejecting the application, and Mr. Gilbert abstaining.

Dr. Ford presented four requests for renewal of shell dredging permits and recommended their approval. The requests were from Atlas Construction Company and T. L. James and Company.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove sand, gravel and fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 148.5 AHP, left descending bank, near Lutchter, at Paulina, St. James Parish, La.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove sand, gravel, and fill material from the beds or water bottoms of the Mississippi River at Mile 148.5 AHP, left descending bank, near Lutchter, at Paulina, St. James Parish, La., for a period of one year from December 18, 1981, to December 18, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove fill materials from the Mississippi River, left descending bank between Mile 134.3 and Mile 135.0 AHP, in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, left descending bank between Mile 134.3 and Mile 135.0 AHP in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from December 18, 1981, to December 18, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of CS 1941+00 to CS 1840+00 in Plaquemines Parish, for a period of one year from December 18, 1981, to December 18, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of CS 1941+00 to CS 1840+00 in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana for a period of one year from December 18, 1981, to December 18, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that a renewal permit be granted to T. L. James & Company to remove sand, gravel and fill material from the beds or water bottoms of the Mississippi River, right descending bank, near Boothville, Louisiana.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T.L. James and Company to remove sand, gravel and fill material from the beds or water bottoms of the Mississippi River, right descending bank, near Boothville, Louisiana, for a period of one year from December 18, 1981, to December 18, 1982, at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

* * *

Dr. Ford presented the Five Year Plan for the Seafood Division, Office of Coastal and Marine Resources, which was prepared by Mr. Harry E. Schafer, Jr., Chief, and his staff. The research and monitoring program, as they refer to it, was prepared in considerable detail with six major areas: Shrimp Monitoring Program, Oyster Monitoring Program, General Hydrological Monitoring Program, Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) Monitoring Program, Marine Laboratory Research Program and Coastal Study Area Research and Monitoring Program.

Chairman Knowles commended Dr. Ford and Mr. Schafer and his staff for the Seafood Division's Five Year Research

and Monitoring Program which was submitted to the Commission. He stated it was very informative and the Commission appreciated it.

Commissioner Farrelly mentioned the new law concerning licenses for shrimp vessels which must be obtained during the month of January. Dr. Ford said the response to our publicity has been good. He also pointed out that the trawling licenses can be obtained throughout the year but the vessel licenses must be obtained between January 1 and February 1 each year.

Commissioner Farrelly brought up for discussion the oyster lease application moratorium. The Board Oyster Committee met on January 13, 1982, to discuss the issue of the moratorium on the taking of applications for oyster leases. Mr. Farrelly said the general feeling was that there should be an avenue for those oyster fishermen with problems and fishermen wishing to enter the fisheries for the first time. The consensus was that there should be a conditional lifting of the moratorium on taking applications for oyster leases for those individuals who will hire a private surveyor to survey the leases.

Commissioner Farrelly read the resolution (quoted below) and said in summary he would like to make three recommendations:

1. A report by the Survey Section to the Commission on a monthly basis of their activities.
2. A conditional lifting of the moratorium to those individuals in accordance with the resolution he just read.
3. An administrator be assigned to closely supervise the retaking of these applications.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted for a conditional lifting of the moratorium.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission during the April, 1978 meeting issued a moratorium on the taking of applications for waterbottoms to culture oysters, and

WHEREAS, there was a Wildlife and Fisheries Commission "Oyster Committee" meeting to look into this critical issue held January, 1982, and

WHEREAS, there is still a large backlog of old applications, but it is felt that the Department has the responsibility to provide a recourse for those individuals desiring to enter the fisheries, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to make a rule change that will conditionally lift the moratorium for those applicants who will agree they will hire a private surveyor to perform their survey, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis according to the following rules:

- I. A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Survey Section Office, will open officially at 8:30 A.M., Monday, May 3, 1982. At that time, numbers will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. These numbers will be issued consecutively daily, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for a one month period beginning May 3, 1982, and ending June 3, 1982. These individuals will then be taken consecutively by number on an appointment basis.
- B. Any bona fide resident or any corporation domiciled in or organized under the laws of this state represented by its president/ chairman of the board may make an application.
- II. The appointments will begin the following week on Monday, May 10, 1982, with the following rules:

- A. The applicant will be taken in five-number increments daily with the first five numbers (applicants being dispersed consecutively) among the five slots mentioned above and each individual will only be allowed one hour. If the said individual misses his or her appointment, that number will be revoked. The remaining applicants will be taken consecutively in five-applicant increments until all the numbers are exhausted.
- B. At the time of application, the regular application fee will be paid to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This would be retained until completion of surveys. If survey is not completed within the allotted time, this application fee will be retained for services rendered.
- C. At the time the individual obtains his number he will be issued an appointment.
- D. Only an individual, unless he or she is president or chairman of the board of a corporation, is entitled to make an application in his or her name.
- E. No power of attorney will be honored.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution concerning the upcoming spring shrimp season be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is bound by the "Administrative Procedures Act" and procedures of the "Oversite Committee of the Louisiana Legislature" to indicate their intent to promulgate a rule, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is bound by LA RS56:497 to set the Spring Shrimp Season not later than May 25 and for a certain prescribed length of time depending on technical data made available to it, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also under Section LA RS56:497 has the authority to set special shrimp seasons for all or parts of the inside waters, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to set the Spring Shrimp Season between the dates of May 1 and May 25, after examining the technical data at the April Commission Meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to set a Special Shrimp Season before the spring season, if technical data provided indicate marketable shrimp are available.

* * *

Chairman Knowles introduced Mr. Sid Rusilo of the Governor's Task Force which has been newly formed to take a look at the operation of state government and to try to make better use of the money allocated for this purpose. Mr. Knowles stated he was glad to have him at the meeting and hoped he had learned something about the operations of the Commission.

Mr. Rusilo stated he wanted to thank Dr. Ted Ford, Mr. Harry Schafer, Mr. Greg Weimar and Mrs. Mary Mitchell and all those people who have helped them with their study.

Mr. Bennie Fontenot stated that a collapse of Allen Dam in Natchitoches Parish has resulted in a severe drawdown in Black and Clear Lakes and, consequently, the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission adopted a resolution banning netting for the year 1982. Mr. Fontenot recommended that the Commission ratify the resolution adopted by the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Preserve Commission.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

EMERGENCY ACTION

WHEREAS, following the failure of Allen Dam in Natchitoches Parish, the Northwest Game and Fish Preserve Commission passed a resolution barring commercial net fishing on Black and Clear Lakes for calendar year, 1982, and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Game and Fish Preserve Commission has since requested the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to take appropriate action in order to enforce this resolution, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Allen Dam Collapse, Black and Clear Lakes are undergoing a drastic drawdown which has reduced their water acreage from 14,000 acres to 3,000 acres, thus creating a severe concentration of fish populations which would be detrimentally affected by netting in this particular situation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of netting in Black and Clear Lakes, Natchitoches Parish, for the remainder of calendar year, 1982.

* * *

Mr. Joe Herring recommended that the Commission increase the right-of-way fees on state-owned wildlife management areas. He recommended fees for small utility right-of-ways such as telephone, municipal water lines, etc., would be \$1.00 per ft. up to 15 ft. in width.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the recommended right-of-way fees and resolution which follows be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the present fees being charged for right-of-ways across or on Department-owned or managed property

are below that being paid to the State Land Office, other governmental agencies and that paid to private landowners, and

WHEREAS, the Department does incur expenses in working with personnel from the various companies for preparation of right-of-way request and observing their work, and

WHEREAS, the recommended right-of-way fee is:

1 - 50 ft.	Not less than \$100 per rod .
51 - 100 ft.	Not less than \$200 per rod
101 - plus ft.	Special consideration, fees will be assessed based on each individual project request.

and,

For small utility right-of-ways such as telephone, municipal water lines, residential gas lines, a fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per foot up to 15 feet in width will be charged, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopt the right-of-way fees as proposed.

* * *

Mr. Joe Herring presented a resolution recognizing National Wildlife Week, March 14-20, 1982. The theme this year is "We Care About Eagles." This is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and also our Louisiana Wildlife Federation and sportsmen's clubs in our state.. He said that all Commission Members have been mailed some of the pamphlets, publications and posters that have been published for the National Wildlife Week and also information booklets, etc., are available to the public at this Commission Meeting. He further stated that during National Wildlife Week, sportsmen's clubs, civic clubs, schools, etc., have programs and sponsor projects during this time promoting National Wildlife Week and try to create more interest in the

wildlife resources of our state.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, that the resolution offered by Mr. Herring on National Wildlife Week be adopted. (resolution follows)

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

1982

WHEREAS, the Continental Congress of 1782 adopted the bald eagle as the central figure of the Great Seal of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the bald eagle has served as a symbol of power, courage, and freedom throughout the history of our nation, and

WHEREAS, the bald eagle also serves as a symbol of our rich wildlife heritage and plays an important role as a predator in its natural habitat, and

WHEREAS, the bald eagle currently faces threats from habitat destruction, illegal shooting, and poisoning from lead shot, and

WHEREAS, on the 200th anniversary of the bald eagle as our national symbol this powerful bird of prey is considered threatened or endangered in all 48 contiguous states, and

WHEREAS, due to concerted efforts by conservationists and a strong national desire to save the bald eagle from extinction, its population is beginning to recover, and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has proclaimed 1982 as "Year of the Eagle" to celebrate the bicentennial of our national symbol and focus attention on the needs of all wildlife, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, do hereby join the National Wildlife Federation in proclaiming March 14-20, 1982, as National Wildlife Week, urging one and all to unite in support of every activity that will help protect eagles and thus strongly affirm that "We Care About Eagles."

* * *

Commissioner J. C. Gilbert asked when the new right-of-way fees on state-owned or state-leased land would be effective.

Mrs. Pie Pendley, Executive Assistant, explained that the action today is giving permission to file a Notice of Intent in the Louisiana Register and then the Oversight Committee has 30 days to review it. After it is published in the Register it comes back to the Commission for final approval. If the Oversight Committee decides to change these rules in any way it will come back to you and you will have to adopt it with their changes or go back through the procedure again. If nothing is changed, Mrs. Pendley stated final approval could be given at the March meeting. It would be published in April and the new fees would be effective upon publication, April 20, 1982.

Mr. Allan Ensminger, Chief, Fur and Refuge Division, stated the Department owns the Marsh Island Refuge located in Iberia Parish. This tract of land was donated to the Department in 1920 by the Russell Sage Foundation. This has been managed as a wildlife sanctuary and wintering waterfowl area.

Many years ago minerals were discovered under Marsh Island and through an amendment under the deed of donation it was authorized for the State of Louisiana to advertise and develop those minerals. The State Mineral Board handles all leasing of state-owned lands. The Russell Sage Foundation retained half of the mineral rights on Russell Sage and, consequently, any leasing on the area has to be approved by Russell Sage Foundation. We have rules and regulations which were developed through many years of experience at Rockefeller and Marsh Island and there is a need for regulations and rules to be promulgated in conjunction with Russell Sage Foundation and have this attached to the advertisement for bids.

Mr. Richard House, Attorney, representative of Russell Sage Foundation, spoke regarding the Deed of Donation from Russell Sage. They plan to meet with representatives of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and formulate rules and regulations similar in form and content to those which form part of the past leases as well as improvements which have been developed over the years. The Foundation also welcomes input from any interested citizen in the state since this involves property that belongs to the people.

Ms. Joan Phillips, Environmental Representative, Louisiana Coastal Commission, thanked the Russell Sage Foundation for this lovely donation. She said it is an asset to our State and hopes that it will continue to be an asset to our State for future generations.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted concerning Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is owner of the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge by virtue of a Deed of Donation from the Russell Sage Foundation, and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Donation has been amended by Acts of the Louisiana Legislature upon approval of the Foundation to permit mineral activity at Marsh Island, and

WHEREAS, mineral activity has been conducted on Marsh Island following specific guidelines that were made a part of the leases, and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that mineral activity can be conducted without causing undue damage to Marsh Island and the management of the wildlife resources, and

WHEREAS, a perpetuation fund has been established by the Louisiana Legislature to perpetuate Marsh Island in

perpetuity as a wildlife sanctuary, and

WHEREAS, surplus monies above the needs of Marsh Island can be utilized for fish and wildlife purposes statewide, and

WHEREAS, mineral deposits may be present under unleased portions of Marsh Island, and

WHEREAS, the State Mineral Board has received requests for additional leases to be awarded by competitive bids for mineral development, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall work with the Mineral Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and prepare special terms and conditions which will be approved by the Russell Sage Foundation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the State Mineral Board to receive competitive bids on unleased portions of Marsh Island not to exceed 2,500 acres per tract using special considerations and conditions which will be made a part of the lease advertisements and subsequent leases which may be awarded, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary is authorized to sign all documents pertaining to these leases.

* * *

Mr. Huey Sanders said that at the September meeting the Commission supported and authorized us to begin shooting range construction on some of our state. This requires a change in our wildlife management area regulations because the present regulations say that no firearms are allowed on wildlife management areas except during the legal hunting seasons. Mr. Sanders said they have gone through the steps advertising the intent to change in the State Register and getting the approval from the Oversight Committee, and now we need final authorization from the Commission to change this rule.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, to change

the regulations and take the necessary steps to construct shooting ranges on wildlife management areas and to adopt the following resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the ultimate goal of the Louisiana Hunter Education Program is the reduction of hunting accidents, and

WHEREAS, the hunter safety program is rapidly expanding in Louisiana, and it is presently in all parishes of the state, including the public school systems of twenty-five parishes and in other parishes through youth camps, 4-H Clubs, Junior Deputy programs, boys' clubs, Boy Scouts, and our district offices, and

WHEREAS, we are under mandate by resolution of the Louisiana State Legislature to study mandatory hunter safety training for Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, live firing is a mandatory part of our hunter safety program in accordance with our federal aid project agreement, and

WHEREAS, there are no public shooting ranges in our State, and

WHEREAS, we emphasize sport hunting as a tool of wildlife management and support private ownership of legal firearms, and

WHEREAS, we promote better marksmanship both for safety and clean kills, and

WHEREAS, we have some 36 wildlife management areas either owned or leased by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries which can provide safe shooting areas, and

WHEREAS, these areas are supervised and patrolled by Department personnel, and

WHEREAS, funds for construction of needed ranges are available through Pittman-Robertson funding and by

use of our Departmental personnel and equipment, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries go on record this date supporting the use of small designated areas located in departmentally-controlled wildlife management areas for hunter safety education classes including supervised shooting for training purposes and other supervised activities such as zeroing rifles and patterning shotguns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission regulations governing the use of wildlife management areas be amended to allow firearm educational activities including shooting on the designated areas effective immediately.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. J. C. Gilbert, and passed unanimously, that the Marine Laboratory be renamed the Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory and adopt the following resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant served the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and its predecessor organizations with faithfulness and distinction from March 1, 1946, to his retirement, and

WHEREAS, during more than three decades Dr. St. Amant devoted his major life's work toward enhancement, perpetuation and wise utilization of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries resources and there have been significant and long-lasting benefits to the hundreds of thousands of people in Louisiana who depend upon these resources for both recreation and livelihoods, and

WHEREAS, his knowledge, experience, judgment and prudence in the management of these coastal and marine resources to assure their renewability has gained for him the respect, confidence and appreciation of all who depend upon these resources for both recreation and livelihoods, and

WHEREAS, many of the programs and activities which he initiated are now standard operating procedures of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contributing greatly to the overall continued sound management and wise annual utilization of these important resources, and

WHEREAS, his knowledge and leadership in these matters was known and respected at national and international levels, to the extent that his counsel and guidance was sought at all levels and has proved of vast assistance at continental and international plains, and

WHEREAS, his excellent rapport with the fisheries industries, oil industries, commercial and sport fishermen, was an outstanding contribution, and

WHEREAS, Dr. St. Amant was the author of a great many scientific and popular articles on marine crustaceans, fishes, ecology and fisheries management and also published papers on oil and oil exploration in the marine environment, and

WHEREAS, through his dedication and hard work he built up the Marine Laboratory at Grand Terre where much of the research for the marine industry began from a temporary barge to what it is now, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marine Laboratory at Grand Terre be rededicated and renamed the Lyle S. St. Amant Marine Laboratory in honor of Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a plaque bearing this name be attached to the laboratory building.

* * *

Dr. Ford suggested that when we obtain a suitable plaque and propose to have it mounted at the laboratory; that we coordinate with the Commission and derive an appropriate time to have some type of ceremony at the Lab.

Dr. Ford said last Tuesday the Joint Committee of the Senate and House Natural Resources met to discuss the Commercial Fishermen's Gear Compensation Program. It was

brought out in that hearing that the state program is functioning well and fishermen have been making claims and have been compensated. The federal program has not been working well at all. One of the problems is that the National office is located in Washington, D. C., and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recommended that the office be located in New Orleans where 95 percent of the potential claims will be filed because they occur off Louisiana's coast.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the shrimp and petroleum industries have made an important contribution to the economy of the State of Louisiana for more than a quarter of a century, and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana is the leading state in the production of fish and shellfish, and

WHEREAS, conflicts arising from the exploitation of these resources have been dealt with at a local level, and

WHEREAS, no other section of the nation has been forced to deal with the problems of trawling and oil exploration, and

WHEREAS, the expertise developed in mitigating these disputes is available only in the Upper Gulf Coast, and

WHEREAS, the office for administering these claims under Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act should be easily accessible to fishermen with gear loss problems, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, does urge that the office to administer Title IV of the Outer Continental Shelf Bill be established in the New Orleans, Louisiana, area. Copies of this resolution are to be spread upon the Minute Book of this Department

and copies are to be directed to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and the Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, St. Petersburg, Florida, and to the Congressional delegation of the State of Louisiana

* * *

Dr. Ford suggested further that we draft an appropriate resolution for the Joint Committee of Senate and House Natural Resources for their consideration and urge its adoption there.

Chairman Knowles announced the dates for the public hearings on seasons and bag limits and dates for upcoming Commission Meetings:

Public Hearings on Seasons and Bag Limits

February 18	Baton Rouge Mineral Bd. Hearing Rm. Natural Resources Bldg.	7:00 P.M.
March 15	Ruston Civic Center	7:00 P.M.
March 23	Lake Charles Sheraton Chateau Charles	7:00 P.M.

Public Hearing on Brown Shrimp Season

April 26	Kenner Sheraton-Airport	7:00 P.M.
----------	----------------------------	-----------

COMMISSION MEETINGS

February 19	Baton Rouge District Office	10:00 A.M.
March 15-16	Ruston Civic Center	10:00 A.M.
April 27	Kenner Sheraton-Airport	10:00 A.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that travel expenses be authorized for those Commission Members attending the Wildlife Federation Meeting in Alexandria, Louisiana, on January 29, 30 and 31, 1982.

Commissioner Farrelly requested Attorney Ted Nass to give an update on the Toledo Bend situation. Mr. Nass replied that we have not received a decision as yet.

Motion was made by Mr. George N. Gray, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

* * *

Jesse M. Knowles
Chairman

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

Minutes transcribed
by Jan Sommers